



UNIVERSITY OF NICOSIA

ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΛΕΥΚΩΣΙΑΣ

University of Nicosia, Cyprus

Course Code LAW-241	Course Title Criminal Law I	ECTS Credits 6
Department Law	Semester Fall	Prerequisites Either, two from LAW-100 LAW-122/6 LAW-132 and LAW-142/6 OR ENGL-101 level upon entrance to the University
Type of Course Major Requirement	Field Law	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course 1 st Cycle	Year of Study 2 nd	Lecturer(s) Peter Pafitis
Mode of Delivery Face-to-face	Work Placement N/A	Co-requisites None

Objectives of the Course:

The course seeks to acquaint students with the principles and criteria upon which a person's responsibility under criminal law will be assessed, focusing primarily on the relevant principles fundamental to criminal liability and the current state of the law in the specific areas of study, as laid down hereunder. Within this context, the key aim of the course is to develop a sound understanding of legal method with particular emphasis on the ability to adopt an effective analytical approach with a view to identifying specific criminal conduct/issues, and applying the general principles of Criminal Law to given hypothetical situations and scenarios with reference to relevant case authority, applicable legislation and/or the opinions of recognized legal commentators and academics.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

1. Discuss the nature and importance of the mens rea mental element and actus reus requirement as key components of criminal offences
2. Explain the need for coincidence of the above elements and the courts' flexible approach in applying this principle
3. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of judicial guidelines for the identification of strict liability offences
4. Determine the law concerning participants in crime and the imposition of secondary/accessorial liability
5. Assess the factors and principles which govern the defences of insanity, automatism and diminished responsibility
6. Discuss the relevant legal principles applicable to the defence of intoxication
7. Assess the circumstances in which the principles of duress, necessity and public/private defence may be raised

8. Explain the need for acquiring problem-solving skills with a view to applying legal principles to factual situations and scenarios

Course Content:

(a) Introduction to Criminal Law
(b) The Elements of a Crime: (I) <u>Actus Reus</u>
Nature
Causation
Omissions
(II) <u>Mens Rea</u>
Intention
Recklessness
Transferred Malice
Coincidence of Actus Reus and Mens Rea
(c) Crimes and Strict Liability
(d) Participation in Crime: Aiding, Abetting, Counselling & Procuring (Accessory liability)
(e) General Defences: Insanity / Automatism
Diminished Responsibility
Intoxication
Self-Defence
Duress
Necessity

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Interactive lectures, tutorials, written examinations and assignments

Assessment Methods:

One written assignment and/or oral presentation, mid-term exam, final exam.

Required Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year/Edition
Catherine Elliot & Frances Quinn	<i>Criminal Law</i>	Pearson's Education	2008
David Ormerod	<i>Smith & Hogan Criminal Law</i>	Oxford University Press	12 th Edition

Recommended Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year/Edition
CMV Clarkson & HM Keating	<i>Criminal Law Text Materials</i>	Sweet & Maxwell	7 th Edition
Michael J. Allen & Simon Cooper	<i>Elliot Woods Cases & Materials</i>	Sweet & Maxwell	10 th Edition
Allan Reed,, Ben Fitzpatrick & Peter Seago	<i>Criminal Law</i>	Sweet & Maxwell	4 th Edition
CMV Clarkson	<i>Understanding Criminal Law</i>	Sweet &	4 th Edition

		Maxwell	
Steve Uglow	<i>Criminal Law – The Fundamentals</i>	Sweet & Maxwell	2 nd Edition
Stephen Forster	<i>Criminal Law & Practice</i>	Sweet & Maxwell	1 st Edition
David Ormerod	<i>Smith & Hogan Criminal Law Cases & Materials</i>	Oxford Press	10 th Edition
Michael Allen	<i>Textbook on Criminal Law</i>	Oxford Press	10 th Edition
Andrew Ashworth	<i>Principles of Criminal Law</i>	Oxford Press	6 th Edition
Alan Reed & Ben Fitzpatrick	<i>Criminal Law</i>	Sweet & Maxwell	4 th Edition